including Andhra Pradesh were made on the basis of past offtake. In view of this allocation of APL rice Andhra Pradesh for 2008-09 has been lower than that of 2007-08.

(d) and (e) The State Government has requested for restoration of APL rice allocation at the level of 2007-08. Since, the policy of rationalisation of APL rice allocation based on past offtake is uniformly applicable for all States, the request could not be agreed to. However in view of higher procurement of rice in the State during KMS 2007-08 and higher procurement during KMS-2008-09 assured by the State Government, the Government has made additional allocation of 2.60 lakh tons of APL rice during 2008-09 and 2.00 lakh tons of APL rice during the current year (upto August, 2009) as part of incentive for procurement of rice higher than the target fixed for the State. This incentive based additional allocation of 40,000 tons of APL rice would be continued for September, 2009.

Complaints in consumer courts

3081. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received by the consumer courts in the country/ Rajasthan, during the last three years, and their disposal;

(b) the total number of accumulated cases pending disposal at the end of 2008;

(c) whether disposal work is satisfactory or pendency is increasing year by year; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite disposal of complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The details of complaints received and disposed off by the Consumer Fora in the whole country (including Rajasthan) during the last three years, as informed by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), are given in Statement-I and II (*See* below).

(b) The total number of accumulated cases pending disposal at the end of 2008; as informed by NCDRC, is as follows:—

Year	National Commission	State Commissions	District Fora	Total
End of 2008	9617	112040	235279	356936

(c) The disposal of cases by the Consumer Fora is satisfactory, keeping in view the various problems being faced by them *viz.* vacancies of President/Members of Consumer Fora, shortage of supporting staff, inadequate infrastructure and funds, etc. The pendency of cases is increasing due to heavy institution of cases.

(d) The important steps being taken by the Central Government to expedite disposal of complaints are as under:—

(i) Financial assistance is being provided to the States/UTs for strengthening their infrastructure. 'CONFONET' scheme for computerization and networking of Consumer Fora across the country is also being implemented.

(ii) With an objective to facilitate the Fora in quicker disposal of cases, several provisions were made through Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 which included enabling the Senior Most Member to preside over the Consumer Fora if the President is absent for any reasons, establishment of Circuit Benches of National Commission and providing for reappointment of President/Members of Consumer Fora.

(iii) The Central Government has been requesting State Governments to take advance action for filling up expected vacancies of President and Members. Wherever required, adjacent Fora can be clubbed together. Benches can also be established in Consumer Fora.

Statement-I

Year-wise filing and disposal in National Commission and State Commissions

(upto 30.06.2009*)*

National Commission	2006		2007		2008	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
	5222	4269	4866	4662	5873	5456
State	2006		2007		2008	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	2027	1078	2101	720	1785	178
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Arunachal Pradesh	4	7	7	5	2	3
Assam	79	2	47	24	43	0
Bihar	1185	406	780	766.	616	755
Chandigarh	976	821	1228	1090	2376	1448
Chhattisgarh	865	895	728	710	962	451

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dadra and Nagar Haveli/ Daman and Diu	1	1	10	8	0	0
Delhi	1589	2928	1541	2475	1464	1859
Goa	131	113	136	93	89	176
Gujarat	2294	1888	2565	1618	2428	1739
Haryana	3025	1395	3570	1792	2274	2134
Himachal Pradesh	1664	2040	2180	1935	1508	1521
Jammu and Kashmir	162	34	321	200	187	234
Jharkhand	442	447	812	268	250	151
Karnataka	3451	2516	2685	3294	3149	3066
Kerala	976	675	316	236		
Lakshadweep	0	0	2	1	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	2970	2780	3101	2706	3250	3201
Maharashtra	3183	2063	4708	3153	4673	3935
Manipur	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Meghalaya	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Mizoram	6	19	22	21	21	25
Nagaland	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Orissa	1194	1096	1238	1613	1122	573
Pondicherry	45	48	26	5	47	34
Punjab	1661	1187	1716	1303	1742	1396
Rajasthan	2817	4804	3204	5213	3196	4604
Sikkim	3	1	1	1		2
Tamil Nadu	2676	59	2777	91	1039	933
Tripura	79	102	85	82	68	121
Uttar Pradesh	3717	1944	3181	3293	2832	3569
Uttaranchal	241	17	453	23	290	15
West Bengal	659	1196	409	639		
TOTAL:	38122	30562	39950	33378	35413	32123

Note: 'N.A.' means 'Not Available'.

Statement-II

Year-wise filing and disposal in District Fora

(upto 30.06.2009*)*

State	2006		2007		2008	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	4117	1526	6749	3345	5618	2343
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	N.A.	N.A.				
Arunachal Pradesh	11	16	7	6	16	9
Assam	620	151	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Bihar	7424	8873	3846	2942	2873	2326
Chandigarh	2187	2370	1421	1348	2908	2791
Chhattisgarh	2187	2084	1966	1606	1976	2105
Dadra and Nagar Haveli/ Daman and Diu	9	4	13	14		
Delhi	11313	10616	11770	10528	11378	10358
Goa	206	358	202	305	213	334
Gujarat	16898	16116	11714	10382	9418	7895
Haryana	10619	11871	12299	13139	10986	8751
Himachal Pradesh	2096	1880	2064	2332	2153	2290
Jammu and Kashmir	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Jharkhand	2311	1746	1658	1372	642	640
Karnataka	8397	8385	9541	9524	10072	9328
Kerala	4444	3113	3113	1553	5517	1069
Lakshadweep	0	3	1	0	0	1
Madhya Pradesh	10850	9597	12008	10398	12267	11006
Maharashtra	10942	14614	11780	12830	16956	16375
Manipur	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Meghalaya	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Mizoram	28	28				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nagaland	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Orissa	2844	3083	5444	4306	4099	4108
Pondicherry	88	88	89	108	101	61
Punjab	6302	4663	7089	7028	6319	6429
Rajasthan	14064	13853	14247	12208	17690	15558
Sikkim	15	10	4	2	5	2
Tamil Nadu	3194	3086	7529	357	3363	3354
Tripura	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Uttar Pradesh	17568	14512	24271	26832	24203	21993
Uttaranchal	1413	898	1220	1636	1073	939
West Bengal	3518	3165	2735	2466		
TOTAL:	143665	136709	152780	136567	149846	130065

Note: 'N.A.' means 'Not Available'.

Impact of strike on availability of essential commodities

3082. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has assessed the impact of strike by truck operators and public sector petroleum companies officers on the availability of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that essential commodities are available to consumers unhindered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prices of food items, including cereals, vegetables and fruits, have remained steady in the wholesale market across the country during the strike period. There was also no problem of availability of essential commodities. As per the reports from the Civil Supplies departments of respective State Governments, there has been little impact on prices of essential commodities on account of the transporters strike. The strike of petroleum Public sector companies officers did not have direct and immediate impact on availability of essential commodities.

(c) In view of (b) above, Does not arise.